

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 22 and 23 (Previously Cancelled).

Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13-15, 17- 21 and 24 (Currently Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The environmentally safe method of storing and handling batches of rubber pieces salvaged from discarded tire carcasses in a bulk storage configuration obtained at low cost for compact storage of residual bulk rubber at bulk storage sites from which bulk rubber may be reclaimed in due course for preparation of rubber products, comprising in combination the steps of: cutting reclaimed tire carcasses into sets of substantially flat storable sections of tire tread strips excluding sidewalls, preparing pallets with loading platform areas of specified length and width dimensions for retaining a plurality of stacks of said substantially flat sections in a storage configuration, stacking a plurality of the storable sections into said stacks in compact rubber-to-rubber interfacing configurations with frictional resistance against movement of the sections lateral to the pallet platform area thereby to facilitate transportation on said pallets for storing and recalling the pallets from designated storage areas of confined space. [The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of] cutting flat rectangular tread strips from the carcasses of a length greater than the length or width dimension of the platform areas and folding the flat tread strips into abutted stack configurations having a length footprint substantially that of one of the platform dimensions.

4. (Originally Presented) The method of Claim 3 further comprising the step of abutting said stacked configurations side-by-side to substantially cover the loading platform areas.

5. (Originally Presented) The method of Claim 3 further comprising the step of interlocking the tread strips in a rubber-to-rubber self supporting configuration for stable transport of loaded pallets.

6. (Originally Presented) The method of Claim 5 comprising the more detailed step of disposing two adjacent folded strips of the stacked configuration for frictional contact between the two strips that tends to retard lateral movement of the strips.

7. (Originally Presented) The method of Claim 6 comprising the more detailed step of contacting adjacent folded strips in rubber-to-rubber contact over half its length.

8. (Originally Presented) The method of Claim 6 comprising the more detailed step of contacting one of the two adjacent folded strips in mutual rubber-to-rubber contact over substantially their entire length.

12. (Herewith Amended) The environmentally safe method of storing and handling batches of rubber pieces salvaged from discarded tire carcasses in a bulk storage configuration obtained at low cost for compact storage of residual bulk rubber at bulk storage sites from which bulk rubber may be reclaimed in due course for preparation of rubber products, comprising in combination the steps of: cutting reclaimed tire carcasses into sets of substantially flat storable sections of tire tread strips excluding sidewalls, preparing pallets with loading platform areas of specified length and width dimensions for retaining a plurality of stacks of said substantially flat sections in a storage configuration, stacking a plurality of the storable sections into said stacks in compact rubber-to-rubber interfacing configurations with frictional resistance against movement of the sections lateral to the pallet platform area thereby to facilitate transportation on said pallets for storing and recalling the pallets from designated storage areas of confined space. [The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of] cutting the flat storable sections from the carcass tread of a length greater than one pallet dimension to be placed lengthwise along that pallet dimension and folding over said sections to interlock adjacent sections in the stacks by frictional rubber-to-rubber contact between the tread and two adjacent sections.

16. (Herewith Amended) The environmentally safe method of storing and handling batches of rubber pieces salvaged from discarded tire carcasses in a bulk storage configuration obtained at low cost for compact storage of residual bulk rubber at bulk storage sites from which bulk rubber may be reclaimed in due course for preparation of rubber products, comprising in combination the steps of: cutting reclaimed tire carcasses into sets of substantially flat storable sections of tire tread strips excluding sidewalls, preparing pallets with loading platform areas of specified length and width dimensions for retaining a plurality of stacks of said substantially flat sections in a storage configuration, stacking a plurality of the storable sections into said stacks in compact rubber-to-rubber interfacing configurations with frictional resistance against movement of the sections lateral to the pallet platform area thereby to facilitate transportation on said pallets for storing and recalling the pallets from designated storage areas of confined space. [The method of Claim 1 further comprising the more detailed steps of] configuring the flat treaded strips longitudinal in shape to have a length compatible with folding and stacking the treaded strips aligned upon one of said length or width dimensions of said pallets in a folded U-shaped configuration with one respective folded strip end [trip] alternately interlocked between the two ends of an adjacent strip to substantially fill the inner end of the U-shaped configuration, and stacking the interlocked flat treaded strips upon the pallets with the closed end of a plurality of the U-shaped configurations alternating near opposite edges of the pallets.

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Accordingly a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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